[redacted]

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO COMPTROLLER

May 22, 1974

NOTE FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Director D's Office in the Future

Based on considerable frequent exposure to the Director D office for 11 years, I have the following comments with respect to the future of the office:

[redacted]

3. Another consideration is whether Director D should relocate to another Air Staff office for the aircraft portion, or the responsibilities be fragmented among different Air Staff offices. There is a unique advan-

[redacted]

and responsibility competitions. We experienced a number of problems for the SR-71 when it was transferred from us to the Air Staff. An effort-fragmentation resulted in increased cost proposals, and no-one had control

of the total program. An individual was established to try to pull the parts together, but he was assigned to the Materiel office, with no backing, then was later transferred to Col Bailey, and has been operating efficiently since.

[redacted]

5. My recommendation is that Directorate D be retained as is, with [redacted] for the near-future at least, with perhaps yearly reviews. [redacted] Directorate D should, however, be relieved of reporting directly to the DNRO for U-2 and SR-71 operating and deployment matters, and budgeting/funding, with needed tie-ins on the basis of reviews with the Under Secretary, similar to the desired arrangements for Senior Pine.

[redacted]

cc: Gen Kulpa